



**MDGs, EXCRUTIATING POVERTY IN AFRICAN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE
CHALLENGE OF A NEW GLOBAL
DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: A CASE FOR
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT REGULATORY
ORGANIZATION (GDRO).**

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Abstract

- African supported MDG agenda because of its seemingly capacity to impact key development infrastructure for sustainable development.
- Unfortunately, some few years to the expiration of the MDG deadline, it will not be an over-statement to state that African developing countries are worse off than they were before the MDGs agenda.
- The level of poverty has become excruciating thereby throwing up the critical challenge of designing and nurturing a new global development agenda beyond MDGs.
- The study critically examines the challenge of a new global development framework in view of the failures of MDG agenda in Africa and other developing countries.
- It articulates alternative approach towards legitimate global development governance by proposing a new Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) to address core-development challenge in international context.
- The study concluded by identifying the institutional framework, functions and approaches to the proposed Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) agenda



The Poverty Crisis in Africa before the Advent of MDGs

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) analysis of basic facts about Africa in its MDG Home page gives a captivating summary of poverty crisis in Africa prior to MDG global Agenda as follows:

- One in two people in Sub-Saharan Africa survives on less than one dollar a day
- 184 million people -33% of the Africa population suffer from malnutrition
- During the 1990's the average income per capital decreased in 20 African countries
- Less than 5% of African population has access to hospitals and doctors
- In 2000, 300 million Africans did not have access to safe water
- The average life expectancy is 41 years
- Only 57% of African Children are enrolled in primary education and only one in every three children complete school.
- One in six children dies before the age of 5. This number is 25 times higher in Sub-Saharan Africa than in the OECD countries.
- Children account for half of all civilian casualties in wars in Africa
- The African countries lost more than 5.3 million hectares of forest during the decades of 1990.
- Less than one person out of five in Africa has electricity

MDGs and the African Hope that is Dashed

There is growing tendency to attribute undue success to MDGs initiative in Africa.

- For instance, the World Bank declare that most African countries that are off-track on most of the MDGs since the mid-1990s have been making progress towards the goals.
- African resilience in the face of global economic crisis have also been attributed to MDGs'. We concur that Africa was able to withstand the pressure of the crisis simply because the economic configurations of the continent have not yet attain the level of sophistications that are susceptible to global shocks.
- If MDGs' is to lay claim to anything, it is only in the area of been able to develop and vigorously articulate sustainable development paradigm and other related advocacy initiatives that have popularize the culture of sustainable development among African citizenry; and financial leverage propelled by MDG debt forgiveness for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) which is been wasted through frivolous projects and high level corruption.



Deepening African Poverty Crisis In View of MDGs

- High economic growth that result in low quality of life.
- National debts is increasing by the day.
- High cost of food and other household items leading to food insecurity.
- Increased student enrolment without corresponding increase in the quality of educational services.
- Production of functional illiterates
- Massive unemployment's due to lack of skills
- Institutional deficiencies that does not allow for gender equality
- High incidence of governance crisis
- High level corrupt practices.
- Access to HIV/AIDS treatment is still relatively costly.
- Malaria/Tuberculosis are major causes of death
- Prevalence of preventable water borne diseases
- Political crisis and conflicts that aggravate poverty.
- Increasing population growth that put under pressure on income and infrastructure.
- Deepening inequality



<p>6. Target 6: Access to basic services By 2015, basic services for all</p> <p>6. Target 6: Access to basic services By 2015, basic services for all</p> <p>6. Target 6: Access to basic services By 2015, basic services for all</p>	<p>- Access to basic services for all</p> <p>- Access to basic services for all</p> <p>- Access to basic services for all</p>	<p>Target 7D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers</p>	
<p>7. Target 7: Affordable housing By 2020, affordable housing for all</p> <p>7. Target 7: Affordable housing By 2020, affordable housing for all</p> <p>7. Target 7: Affordable housing By 2020, affordable housing for all</p>	<p>- Affordable housing for all</p> <p>- Affordable housing for all</p> <p>- Affordable housing for all</p>	<p>8. Target 8: Decent work and economic growth By 2020, decent work for all</p> <p>8. Target 8: Decent work and economic growth By 2020, decent work for all</p> <p>8. Target 8: Decent work and economic growth By 2020, decent work for all</p>	<p>- Decent work and economic growth for all</p> <p>- Decent work and economic growth for all</p> <p>- Decent work and economic growth for all</p>



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MDGs is a one and off reactive agenda to the overwhelming force of globalization at that point in time.

MDGs talked about development without deep understanding of it in terms of sustainability, well-being and its global dynamics hence the emphasis on economic growth that have no correlation with quality of life of people.

MDGS is a big attempt at global governance without global government.

Lack of effective institutional arrangement to drive, refocus and ensure compliance in strict sense of global governance.



The World in Dire Need of a New Global Development Agenda

With apparent failure of MDGs development agenda given the African experience, it is important that we come up with alternative agenda that underpins the following:

- Uphold a prima facie new development understanding that we are all in a global world, a shared planet in which everyone is a global citizen.
- Put into front banner as a matter of urgency, those fundamentals; commonness in our humanity in terms of education, basic health, food security, democracy, environment etc.
- Focus on sustainable well-being on key global development issues.
- Capture the reality of the exigency of a global governance mechanism that also acquire the character of global government.
- The new global development agenda must develop a global compliance mechanism that would ensure that all stakeholders to pay their dues in the new global deal in which every one is a global citizen in a shared planet.



A Case for Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO)


From the African perspective, the MDGs' has been a waste of precious time and resources.

There is thus an urgent need to establish a Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) as a post MDGs 2015 agenda whose mandate is to:

- maximize the use of global development paradigm in order to plan, organize, prosecute and regulate global sustainable development activities.
- muster all the required legitimacy and be adequately positioned as the legitimate institution for promoting and enforcing global development agenda
- operate far above the previous stop-gap measures of other development initiatives and institutions.

Its mandate would include:

- making an informed analysis of common global sustainable development issues.
- design appropriate checklists, and action plans for the benefit of all countries.
- articulate and disseminate the principles of global sustainable development to all stakeholders.
- Design a compliance methods
- acquire necessary capacity to ensure compliance through sanction or force or both.



The internal organogram of GDRO should consist of a:

- Secretariat for Global Sustainable Development (SFGSD);
- Global Development Planning, Research and Statistics Department (GDPRSD);
- Sustainable Development Regulatory and Compliance Department (SDRCD) and the
- Department for International Sustainable Development (DFISD).

Duties and Responsibilities

The Secretariat for Global Sustainable Development (SFGSD)

- co-ordinate all global stakeholders in the march towards sustainable development.
- establish a broad based consensus across stakeholders such as the United Nations, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Private business sectors and other relevant stakeholders.
- aggregate informed inputs from stakeholders and ensure that each of the stakeholders' buy into the global sustainable agenda.
- secure the necessary moral and material support of stakeholders as far as sustainable development agenda is concerned.

Global Development Planning, Research and Statistics Department (GDPRSD)

- to develop, collate and maintain baseline data on minimum global sustainable development issues.
- design sustainable development index (SDI) .
- identify and reconcile all areas of development divergences across the world.
- build non-contestable synthesis and other development benchmarks that are suitable for appropriate global compliance.

Duties and Responsibilities

Sustainable Development Regulatory and Compliance Department (SDRCD)

- ensure compliance with minimum global development index.
- ensure that nations across the globe comply with basic rules regarding issues such as human rights, anti-corruption, democracy, access to basic health, education, clean environment and security.
- to muster necessary capacity to enforce compliance through sanction, force or both

Department for International Sustainable Development (DFSD)

- vigorously pursue sustainable development capacity-building and other compliance skills among the nations of the world.
- to propagate the ideals of global citizenship.
- highlight key features that make every citizen a global human being beyond national frontiers
- teach ethics for sustainable development so that nations and citizens across the globe can understand, appreciate and internalize the imperatives of sustainable development practices



Advantages of the proposed Global Development Regulatory Organizations (GDRO).

- It is a conscious pre-emptive attempt at promoting sustainable development in global context rather than the reactive, fire-brigade approach of the previous efforts.
- It is presumably derived, based on internationally agreed framework while its target goals shall reflect only the universally shared values in the areas of sustainable development across human security, environment, basic education, health, housing and social infrastructures that cut across national frontiers.
- While the goals of previous efforts at global development agenda are either too narrow like the Copenhagen Declaration or too unwieldy like the MGDs; the GDRO will focus on key sustainability issues that are firmly streamlined based on universally agreed frameworks for sustainable development.
- It will make use of core-development practitioners across board to consciously plan and determine global sustainability Index (GSI); design of feasible action-plans; prepare performance measurements and monitoring templates including compliance and enforcements procedures; by so doing, the GDRO would avoid the



Advantages of the proposed Global Development Regulatory Organizations (GDRO).

- It shall maintain global development equilibrium because of its capacity to maintain compliance. The deployment of minimal force and outright global sanctions by GDRO to any erring nations who fails to initiate and prosecute agreed development goals is an effective means of ensuring that development stakeholders stay on course instead of laize-faize methods of the past development agenda.
- Finally, the cardinal objectives of Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) is to institute a global development management governance that is truly concerned with raising the bar of global sustainable development through admixture of mutual inclusivity, development of benchmarks for global development practices, build the capacity of stakeholders for effective global development operations, and ensure development compliance through proper monitoring and enforcement of development program implementations



Advantages of Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) Contd.

GDRO agenda is firmly rooted on the essence of existence and development based on the fact that we are in a shared planet.

It focuses only on global human sustainable well-being.


It has the capacity to capture and respond to global development dynamics.

GDRO is clearly above the accusations of neo-liberal agenda and hypocrisy on the part of developed countries.



Conclusion

- There can never be any effective global governance without a corresponding measure of global government. What we have had so far with initiatives like the MDGs were bold attempts at global governance.
- We have continued to record little success in the previous attempt at global governance as exemplified in African encounter with MDG's global development agenda because of lack of accompanying global government mechanism.
- We truly need a global institution that is legitimate and have the capacity to ensure that global institutions comply with minimum development standards in a unipolar world where everyone has become a global citizen.



THANK YOU.